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ABSTRACT

This book examines the period around 1900 when young laborers were considered an official social problem in the German Empire. Chapter 2 demonstrates the structural foundations and preconditions of the youth salvation campaign. It analyzes the position of young workers in Germany's urban population, their rapidly changing roles in the labor force, and their legal status. Chapter 3 explores the image of young laborers as sketched by the youth savers, the concrete social ills they addressed, and the remedies they proposed. Chapter 4 compares the schools in Dusseldorf with those in Munich. Chapter 5 contrasts the youth work of the Protestant and Catholic churches and discusses the difficulties that both churches encountered in trying to win young workers. The genesis of the Socialist youth movement and its relations with the imperial authorities and the youth salvation campaign are the subjects of chapter 6. Chapter 7 explores the characteristics of the new, more intense, and more politicized phase and their consequences. Chapter 8 considers the inclusion of young females in the salvation campaign. Focuses of chapter 9 are young workers and youth cultivation in war. Chapter 10 draws conclusions about the significance of the battle for young workers in Imperial Germany. Questions are raised about lines of continuity between the youth policy of the Empire and the policies of the Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany. The book contains 33 references, 56 pages of endnotes, and an index. (YLB)

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